

**METHOD OF AUTOMATICALLY EVALUATING IMAGES  
BEING PROCESSED IN A PHOTOGRAPHIC LABORATORY SYSTEM**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

1           Images being processed in a photographic laboratory  
2        system into different forms of output are automatically  
3        evaluated to determine for each image whether it is of  
4        sufficient quality to merit processing into a selected form of  
5        output. The evaluation of each image includes the following  
6        steps:  
7        - determining a grade value for each of one or more  
8           characteristic properties of the image,  
9        - assigning a target value to each of the characteristic  
10          image properties relative to each available form of output,  
11        - comparing the grade value to the target value for a  
12          selected form of output.

(Fig. 1)